

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

OIC-02 L-03 NASA-01 OES-06 SP-02 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:PB

APPROVED BY EB/TD:GLHUFFCUTT

DOT - MR. BEAM

MARAD - MR. WHEATLEY

OTP - CAPTAIN ADAMS

FCC - MR. GREENBURG

IO/TRC - MR. WEBB

EUR/CE - MR. KURZE

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R 191502Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, GW

SUBJECT: INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

REF; A) BONN 13506; B) STATE 196200; C) LONDON 11768;
D) BONN 13731

1. WE HAVE DECIDED AGAINST RAISING MATTER OF FRG PARTICI-
PATION IN INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WITH FRG OFFICIALS
PARAS 2 AND 3 REFTL A. BUT FOR COAST GUARD OPERATIONS,
DOT HAS LIMITED INVOLVEMENT IN INMARSAT, AND MARAD BELIEVES,
AS DO WE, THAT FRG POST AND TRANSPORT MINISTRIES SHOULD
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NOT BE DIRECTLY URGED BY USG TO PARTICIPATE, BUT MERELY BE

INFORMED THAT USG INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE AND HOPES, FOR REASONS NOTED PARA 5 REFTEL B, FRG WILL DO LIKEWISE. EMBASSY MEETING WITH SIGRIST AUGUST 17 PRESUMABLY SERVED THIS PURPOSE, AS WE WOULD EXPECT FOREIGN OFFICE TO MAKE USG VIEWS KNOWN TO INTERESTED FRG PARTIES.

2. WHILE WE AGREED TO APPROACH PROPOSED REFTEL C, WE OUTLINED LOW KEY POSITION AND ARE ANXIOUS THAT USG REPRESENTATIONS NOT BE CONSTRUED AS FORCING OR INSISTING ON FRG PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IN OUR VIEW THE AFFECTED MINISTRIES WILL EVENTUALLY CONCLUDE THAT FRG GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INTERESTS WARRANT PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THAT A

DECISION TO DO SO WILL BE MADE. THEY SHOULD REACH THIS VIEW WITHOUT ANY USG PROMPTING.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT JAENICKE'S UNDERSTANDING (REFTEL D, PARA 6) OF STATUS OF SATELLITE BEING CONSIDERED FOR US NAVY USE IN INDIAN OCEAN. NAVY HAS CONTRACTED WITH CONSORTIUM OF US COMPANIES (MARISAT) FOR PROVISION OF SATELLITE CAPACITY IN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEAN REGIONS. THE CONSORTIUM WILL ALSO MAKE CERTAIN CAPACITY IN THE SATELLITES AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL USE. RECENTLY THE NAVY AND THE CONSORTIUM HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN OCEAN SERVICE, AS WELL, AND THE CONSORTIUM MAY FIND IT FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY ATTRACTIVE TO ALSO OFFER COMMERCIAL SERVICE. PLANS ARE NOT FIRM AND NO USG APPROVAL FOR ANY ASPECT OF INDIAN OCEAN SERVICE HAS YET BEEN SOUGHT. AT MEETING IN LONDON TO WHICH JAENICKE REFERRED, DEPOFF SAID THAT BECAUSE SUCH INDIAN OCEAN FACILITIES AND SERVICE, WOULD, IF IMPLEMENTED, REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH INTELSAT UNDER ARTICLE XIV(D) OF THE INTELSAT AGREEMENTS, THE US HAD INITIATED THE COORDINATION PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 1976 MEETING OF THE INTELSAT ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES, THEREBY OBTAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEED TO CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY AT A LATER DATE TO EFFECT COORDINATION.

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4. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THERE

IS NO USG PARTICIPATION IN OWNERSHIP OF MARISAT AND THAT THERE IS NO USG AGREEMENT THAT DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN OCEAN SATELLITE WOULD BE LEFT TO EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS AS JAENICKE ALLEGED. WE ARE AWARE THAT MARISAT CONSORTIUM HAS DISCUSSED WITH EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY OFFICERS POSSIBILITY

OF MAROTS SATELLITE IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION; WE ARE ALSO
AWARE THAT MARISAT CONSORTIUM HAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED
POSSIBILITY OF A MARISAT INDIAN OCEAN SATELLITE WITH THEM
AS WELL. THE USG IS NOT A PARTY TO THESE DISCUSSIONS.
PARIS 22145, WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO BONN, REPORTS
REACTIONS OF ESA OFFICIALS. ROBINSON

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